

## **Minutes of the April 10th, 2007**

### **Lincoln Land Trust Meeting**

**I. Call to order: 7:15 pm. Present: Betty Allen, Janet Butler, Jan Ferry, Judy Hadley**

**II. Minutes – motion to approve the minutes was made by Jan, seconded by Janet.**

#### **III. Correspondence –**

**Frank Geary asked for a letter from the Land Trust in support of Michael Sullivan for permanent director of RI Department of Environmental Management.**

**Also, Frank Geary sent a letter stating that Jan Reitsma was applying for the post of director of the Heritage Corridor. This is the first time that this is open to a non-federal employee. Frank requested that the Land Trust submit a letter of support for Mr. Reitsma.**

**IV. Land Trust Projects – No word has been received as of yet with regard to the America the Beautiful Grant for conducting a tree inventory in Lincoln. These grants should be announced soon.**

#### **V. Old Business –**

**Town Administrator Joe Almond called the chair to inform her that**

there may be money in the budget to be given for use in the fish ladder study. Funds from the 2006 – 07 budget may be available. This will go before the Town Council on April 17th. The state of Rhode Island has

received \$5 million for fish ladders, \$1.7 million of it to be used on the Blackstone River.

Manville property update – the developers in this project have filed an appeal. A decision on this matter could take up to a year. In the meantime, residents of the neighborhood have petitioned the Town Council to make a change in the zoning ordinance. They have requested that the zoning be

changed from RG-7 to RL-9. This change would limit development on the property in question to a duplex at most. A petition in support of the change has been signed by all of the residents, with the exception of the developers and one other family, whose property would be impacted by this change in the zoning ordinance. To date, there has been no objection to this change brought before the Town Council or the Ordinance Committee.

Stone wall ordinance – a copy of Smithfield's stone wall ordinance has been obtained. The Land Trust will look over the ordinance with the goal of writing a similar ordinance for Lincoln.

DEM Open Space Grant – The RI DEM has rejected the grant proposal for Lepore farm.

**Vernal Pool Inventory – It has been suggested that the Land Trust conduct a vernal pool inventory in the town. If this project is completed, perhaps the Land Trust could revive Big Night in Lincoln.**

**The Heritage Corridor has given its Big Night equipment to Mass. Audubon.**

## **VI. New Business –**

**Earth Day – suggestions for Earth Day clean up activities were discussed. The chair suggested**

**that the Land Trust focus its efforts on a clean up at historical cemeteries. This comes after a recent newspaper article on the RI Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries. It was suggested that the Land Trust organize a clean up at the cemetery near Davies on April 28th. It**

**also suggested that the Land Trust work on identifying and keeping an inventory of the historical cemeteries in town. More information will be forthcoming.**

**Open Space Goal – With the town's open space goal of 30% (593 acres), it is extremely important to develop an awareness of open space among residents of the town. Betty suggested that the Land Trust sponsor a walk at Camp Meehan so that residents of the town may see "what they got for their money." Discussion on this topic will continue at a later date.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 8th.**